

News Release



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Contact: Joe Rosato
(916) 324-1576
jrosa@parks.ca.gov

OHV Commissioner Marge Sutton Honored for Years of Service

ONTARIO – Commission Marge Sutton, one of the original members of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission, today was presented with the Golden Helmet Award for her years of service ensuring the coexistence of off-highway vehicle recreation and environmental protection on public lands in California.

The Golden Helmet Award given to Sutton is the highest achievement award presented by the Commission and acknowledges her nearly two decades of service to California's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Program. She also was the recipient of a State Assembly Resolution commending her on her accomplishments. The recognition was made during the Commission's meeting in Ontario, California.

"Marge Sutton is to be commended," said California State Parks Director Rusty Areias. "Her tenure has been an outstanding one, and it is appropriate that she is recognized for her tireless efforts, and for dedicating her valuable time and talents to ensuring the coexistence of OHV recreation and protection of the environment on public lands in California."

Sutton is one of the first of seven people appointed to the Commission when it was established by the Legislature in 1982. She was initially appointed by then-Assembly Speaker Willie Brown to represent environmental interests. Since then, Sutton has been reappointed every four years by the Speakers of the Assembly, and served continuously.

During that time, Sutton has served with more than 25 different fellow Commissioners and has witnessed more than 50 individual legislative bills chaptered to affect both major and minor changes to California's OHV program.

In addition to the OHV Commission, Sutton has served on the Governor's Housing Task Force and the Governor's Task Force on Housing Affordability.

Sutton, of Palo Alto, has announced she will step down when her term on the Commission expires January 15, 2002.

California's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission was created by the Legislature in 1982 to allow public input and provide policy guidance for the OHV program. The Commission's duties include: allocating funds for OHV capital outlay expenditures and OHV grants and cooperative agreements; certifying environmental impact reports; and considering adverse impacts on property in the vicinity of SVRAs, and recommending measures to the Division to reduce those impacts.

Seven Commissioners are appointed to staggered, four-year terms. The Governor appoints three of the members, and the Senate Rules Committee and the Speaker of the Assembly each appoint two. The Commission membership is required to represent a broad range of disciplines relevant to off-highway recreation -- OHV recreation enthusiasts, biologists, rural landowners, soil scientists, and environmental interests. For more information on OHV Commissioners, visit www.ohv.parks.ca.gov

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